

THE MARSH BERKELEY PRESENTS
MARK KENWARD'S
SOLO PERFORMANCE NANTUCKET

Written and performed by Mark Kenward
Directed by Rebecca Fisher
May 3 ó June 14, 2014

BERKELEY, CA (25 March, 2014) ó Veteran solo performer **Mark Kenward** (*Riding From Normal, The Yoga of Moby-Dick*), returns to The Marsh with his most ambitious work yet. **NANTUCKET**, a haunting yet hilarious memoir about Kenward's years growing up on the fabled island, is a unique solo performance event featuring guest artists presenting music, video, and fine art photography inspired by Nantucket. Audience members will enjoy a New England picnic dinner from the East Bay premiere artisan takeout restaurant Grégoire (included with admission). **NANTUCKET** will play **May 3 – June 14, 2014** at **The Marsh Berkeley** (2120 Allston Way), with performances Thursdays and Saturdays at 7pm. (*Press opening is Saturday, May 10.*) For tickets (\$25-\$30 open seating; \$50-\$100 reserved), the public may visit www.themarsh.org or call **415-282-3055** between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

It occurred in an instant. On a gray winter's day, on an island thirty miles out to sea, 16-year-old Mark Kenward witnessed his mother commit a violent act that would shatter his family and shock the local community. Thirty years later, Kenward has shaped his family's story, of their migration from Normal, Illinois to island "paradise," into the riveting drama **NANTUCKET**. Taking audiences on a fast-paced ride full of big laughs and haunting vignettes, Kenward delves past the iconic summer images into the off-season, when the tourists are gone, the winters are gray and challenging to the psyche, and life is as "far from Normal" as can be. Lauded as "a commanding storyteller" by the *SF Weekly* and "an astonishing word-slinger" by the *Contra Costa Times*, Kenward peppers his tale with dashes of humor and history, exposing both the light

THE MARSH BERKELEY PRESENTS MARK KENWARD'S "NANTUCKET"
2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2

and dark sides of island life. Each performance will feature a New England picnic dinner from the East Bay premiere artisan takeout restaurant Grégoire, served during intermission.

Mark Kenward is the creator of seven full-length solo shows. The *San Francisco Examiner* called him "a warm, wonderful storyteller who establishes an instant rapport with his audience" and the *San Francisco Chronicle* praised him for "comic timing as sharp as his punch lines are well honed." He has performed his work in over thirty cities throughout the US and Canada, including a reception for The House of Representatives in Washington, DC, and several runs at The Marsh (San Francisco's premiere venue for solo performance). Past shows include *Riding From Normal*, *The Yoga of Moby-Dick*, and *Towle's Hill*. He is also an award winning director of several successful solo shows, including Kurt Bodden's runaway hit *Steve Seabrook: Better Than You*. For more information, please visit www.markkenward.com.

Nantucket is directed by **Rebecca Fisher**, a performer, director, and producer of solo work. Her first solo show *The Magnificence of the Disaster* had a successful run at The Marsh in San Francisco as well as a tour to Memphis and East Coast colleges. The *San Francisco Chronicle* describes her work as "smart, challenging, disarmingly funny, and unmistakably affecting." She also works as a director of solo pieces, including recent runs by Elaine Magree at The Exit in San Francisco and Laura Wiley at the SF Fringe Festival. As an actress she has performed with Shotgun Players, New Conservatory Theatre, and the Bay Area One Act Festival. She co-produces *Tell it on Tuesday*, an East Bay solo performance series at The Marsh now heading into its 10th year. For more information, please visit www.rebeccamfisher.com.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHAT: Veteran solo performer **Mark Kenward** (*Riding From Normal*, *The Yoga of Moby-Dick*), returns to The Marsh with his most ambitious work yet. It occurred in an instant. On a gray winter's day, on an island thirty miles out to sea, 16-year-old Mark Kenward witnessed his mother commit a violent act that would shatter his family and shock the local community. **NANTUCKET**, a haunting yet hilarious memoir about Kenward's experience moving from Normal, Illinois to island "paradise," delves past the iconic summer images into the off-season, when the tourists are gone, the winters are gray and challenging to the psyche, and life is as "far from Normal" as can be. This unique solo performance event features

THE MARSH BERKELEY PRESENTS MARK KENWARD'S "NANTUCKET"

3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3

guest artists presenting music, video, and fine art photography inspired by Nantucket. Each performance will feature a New England picnic dinner from the East Bay premiere artisan takeout restaurant Grégoire, served during intermission.

WHEN: May 3 through June 14, 2014

SHOWS: Thursdays and Saturdays at 7:00pm

WHERE: **The Marsh Berkeley MainStage**

2120 Allston Way

Parking: Allston Way Garage, 2061 Allston Way between Milvia & Shattuck

The Downtown Berkeley Bart station is one block away on Shattuck

TICKETS: \$25 - \$30 open seating; \$50 - \$100 reserved (all tickets include picnic dinner)

INFO: For information or to order tickets call (415) 282-3055 or visit www.themarsh.org

-30-

PRESS: Contact Kelsey Verdier, Carla Befera & Co.
650.327.1200 | kelsey@cb-pr.com

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://www.cb-pr.com/press/nantucket.html>